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Introduction of an Advanced Practice Nurse Program in Kenya: A New Era in Nursing Education

Sheila Shaibu, PhD¹

Eunice Wambui Ndirangu, PhD, MSc, BScN, RN²

Eunice Siaity, PhD³

Gladys M. Mbuthia, MN, RN⁴

Rachel Kimani, PhD¹

Isabel Kambo, MSc¹

(1)School of Nursing and midwifery, Aga Khan University, Nairobi, Kenya

(2)School of Nursing & Midwifery, Aga Khan University, Nairobi, Kenya

(3)School of Nursing and midwifery, Aga Khan University, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, United Republic of

(4)School of Nursing and Midwifery, Aga Khan University, Nairobi, Kenya

Purpose: The purpose of this presentation is to share the intra and interprofessional collaborative process of developing an Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) program to be offered in 2020 in Kenya, a low middle-income country.

Methods: Engagement with stakeholders (students, clinicians, regulators and educators) affirmed the need for an APN program. Faculty from Schools of Nursing and Midwifery in three East African countries developed an APN curriculum with input from local and international agencies such as the Nursing Council of Kenya with linkages to the ICN, the Nursing Now Team and partner universities in the UK and USA. The curriculum was reviewed for relevance and cultural sensitivity. Christmals and Crous (2019) noted the importance of contextualizing the APN role to the specific country and healthcare systems. The development of collaborative frameworks between nursing and midwifery, and higher educational councils is important (Muraraneza, Mtshali, and Mukamana, 2017), therefore, feedback from the Council for Higher Education was sought and incorporated. The final document will be sent to external reviewers from partner universities prior to implementation in 2020. Limited resources and opposition from the medical profession have been reported as challenges to APN programs in Sub Saharan Africa (Christmals and Armstrong, 2019). To address these problems, the Liverpool John Moore University, UK, will host a six weeks' capacity building program for East African faculty who will teach in this program. The program will be also offered in partnership with Family Medicine physicians and pharmacists and this will enhance interprofessional competencies (Monahan, Sparbel, Heinschel, Rugen, and Rosenberger, 2018). A workshop will be held in 2020 to share a common understanding of the program with all collaborative partners. The APN role is evolving globally and there is no consensus on the core competencies and its definition (Heale and Buckley, 2016). Kenya has no scope of practice for APN (East, Arudo, Loeffler and Evans, 2014) and one will be developed.

Results: An APN curriculum has been developed and is in the final stages of review

prior to implementation in 2020. Anticipated challenges have been identified such as lack of resources among others, and strategies have been put in place to mitigate them. **Conclusion:** An APN program is pivotal to the realization of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as graduates of this program will be deployed in primary health care settings. The intra and interprofessional collaboration will strengthen both the program and partnerships (local and global) with mutual benefits for all involved.

Title:

Introduction of an Advanced Practice Nurse Program in Kenya: A New Era in Nursing Education

Keywords:

Advanced Practice Nursing Curriculum Development, Inter-professional collaboration and Universal Health Coverage

Abstract Summary:

This presentation will discuss the role of collaboration with stakeholders (students, alumni, clinicians and regulators) in country and global collaboration with partners in the development of an Advanced Practice program to meet national indicators. It also highlights the merits of inter-professional and intra-professional collaboration.

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First Primary Presenting Author

Primary Presenting Author

Sheila Shaibu, PhD

Aga Khan University

School of Nursing and midwifery

Professor
Nairobi
Kenya

Author Summary: Sheila Shaibu is a Professor in Nursing, and has 30 years experience in nursing education, curriculum development and research. She has taught nursing in Botswana, Rwanda and now Kenya.

Second Author

Eunice Wambui Ndirangu, PhD, MSc, BScN, RN
Aga Khan University
School of Nursing & Midwifery
Lecturer
Nairobi
Kenya

Author Summary: Eunice is an Interim Dean at the Aga Khan University, Nairobi, Kenya. She holds a BSc. Nursing degree from University of Eastern Africa, Baraton (Kenya) and a Masters in Advanced Nursing Practice and PhD from the University of Nottingham (UK). Her research area of interest is HIV with a particular focus on the sociological aspects of prevention, treatment and management of HIV.

Third Author

Eunice Siaity, PhD
Aga Khan University
School of Nursing and midwifery
Senior Instructor
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania, United Republic of

Author Summary: Eunice is an experienced Maternal and Child Health and midwifery educator who also teaches Nursing at Aga Khan University, Tanzania. She has experience in research and curriculum development and has been coordinating the development and implementation of the APN program in East Africa

Fourth Author

Gladys M. Mbutia, MN, RN
Aga Khan University
School of Nursing and Midwifery
Senior Instructor
Nairobi
Kenya

Author Summary: Gladys Mbutia is a nurse educator with 12 years of teaching and clinical instruction in nursing. Her area of research is in Nursing leadership and nursing

students' support. Her areas of interest include: Medical Surgical Nursing, Mental Health, Nursing leadership and management and Nursing research.

Fifth Author

Rachel Kimani, PhD
Aga Khan University
School of Nursing and midwifery
Senior Instructor
Nairobi
Kenya

Author Summary: Rachel Kimani has a Doctorate in Nursing Practice with clinical experience and teaching in nursing as well as in research in drug addiction. She also has interest in mental health and has been teaching at Aga Khan University for 2 years. Previously she has worked in the USA as a nurse clinician and as a researcher with the Rockefeller Foundation.

Sixth Author

Isabel Kambo, MSc
Aga Khan University
School of Nursing and midwifery
Senior Instructor
Nairobi
Kenya

Author Summary: Isabel Kambo is a registered nurse and midwife and Interim Head at the School of Nursing and Midwifery–Kenya Campus, teaching nursing. Previously she worked in projects and also worked at the Aga Khan University hospital Nairobi where she was responsible for nursing development activities. Isabel has also worked in Rwanda where she taught nursing at Kigali health institute. Isabel is also currently pursuing PHD studies at the University of Salford –UK.